The Daily Gazetteer.

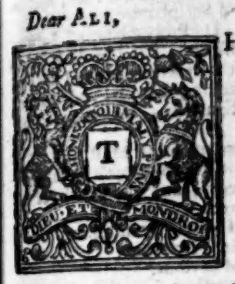
NUMB. 287

FRIDAY, MAY 28 1736. N°. 287.

A new Collection of Perſian Letters *is publiſhing abroad, ſome of which are thought worth tranſlating in a Scarcity of News, and particularly the following, which is the* Perſian's *Character of the Soldiers, the Ladies, and the Prieſts, &c. in France.*

RICA *writes thus to* ALI-BEG *at* Iſpahan.

Dear ALI,



THY *Rica* has found Favour in the Sight of our Holy Prophet. From the Top of the ſtarry Roof he has condeſcended to caſt down a gracious Look on me; for mine Eyes have ſeen the charming, ſtately Place from whence I write, which is call'd *Verſailles*, the common Refidence of the *Sophi* of France, who is here dignified with the Appellation of *Moſt Chriſtian King*. His Court is chiefly made up of Soldiers, Women, and Imans.

The Soldiers are actually perfumed, and ſoft Pleaſure has mark'd their Foreheads with the Stamp of what they call *Gallantry*, a Virtue, which, to our Camps, our Seraglios, and Towns, is altogether unknown.

On the other hand, the Women have ſomething of that Air which thou wouldſt wiſh to ſee in the Soldiery. Whereas the Character of the Imans, is a Compound of the Roughneſs of the Soldier, and the Delicacy of the Women. Theſe Particulars thou mayſt think ſhocking to Decency; but 'tis all nothing more than an Affectation of ſetting up the Standard of a certain Liberty, which this Kingdom pretends to even in its very Name; tho' here, as among the true Believers, the Prince governs with a boundleſs Sway, making his Will the Law, and having the abſolute Diſpoſal of the Lives and Fortunes of his Subjects.

In other Reſpects, you have here an Idea of the Paradice we are promiſed in that divine and glorious Book written with the very Finger which ſupports this Univerſe, where Innocence and Peace kiſs each other on their Throne of Alabaſtre, and where Vanity, Ambition, and Preheminence are not ſo much as known. Here the Equality of Ranks is ſo well ſettled, that I have ſeen a Vizier accoſting the meaneſt Creature in the World (I mean a Woman that dances on the publick Stage) with ſuch ſubmiſſive Cringes as thou wouldſt be apt to make when thou approacheſt the majeſtick Throne of our dread Sophi. I alſo ſaw one of the chief Imans, a Claſs of Men a thouſand times more ſtately than the Viziers, diveſt himſelf all at once of his Grandure, at the Sight of this Dancer, ſimpering, whiſpering, admiring, applauding her, and, in a Word, paying the vile Creature all the Adoration due to a Sultaneſs.

I profeſs to thee, I am extremely pleaſed to ſee how lovingly theſe Infidels treat one another like Brothers. No ſooner one of them enters their Houſes, but they embrace him tenderly, ſmile on him kindly, and enquire after his Health with ſuch Impatience, as if it was a Matter of the laſt Importance. Nobody accoſts you with the Air of a Maſter, be you ever ſo mean. Every one calls himſelf your moſt humble Slave, a Title of which they are fond to rob one another. How different are theſe People, *Dear Ali*, from the Followers of our Prophet the Coadjutor of God! And how ought we to be aſhamed! In good Truth it almoſt tempts me to think there muſt be ſomething good in the Alcoran of the Son of *Joſeph*.

Nay (ſo much does Honeſty prevail in this Country of the Uncircumciſed) that the Chaſtity of their Wives is not once ſuſpected. This is ſo true, that in all this Multitude of Men and Women, who live as it were in a ſtrict Intimacy with one another, they know of but one Eunuch, who is called *Patchini* *; nor was he made ſuch to be the Depoſitary of the Virtue of the Women, the Guardian of their Chaſtity; but he was emaſculated to the Honour of the living God, in order to ſing his Praiſes. I have ſeveral times heard him in the impure Moſque of this City, and aſſure thee, that he has a Voice, than which none can raiſe an Anthem nearer to the Empyreal Regions. With what Zeal, with what Fervency ought we, my *Dear Ali*, to ſacrifice the Joys of our Paradice, to celebrate him who planted it! 'Tis indeed a rare Example in this Country, where, tho' *Imans* and *Derviſhes* are inſtituted to praiſe the Moſt High, yet I queſtion whether any of them was ever tempted to imitate the Zeal of this incomparable Choiriſter.

To return to the Women, and their wonderful Chaſtity. Tho' they are ſo charming, they ſeldom create Jealouſies; either becauſe they are all chaſte, or elſe becauſe the Men in theſe happy Climates are all honeſt.

Beſides a thouſand native Charms, they have a healthy Complexion, which is enough to warm the Imagination of the moſt decrepid Guardian of thy chaſte Favourites. The Roſe is not ſo beautiful as the Vermillion of their Cheeks, and this lively Countenance of theirs heighten'd by little black Spots, which would be Deformities, were they not ſo artfully diſpoſed up and down their Faces, as to ſet off both the White and Red; but 'tis very odd, what they tell me, that this goes off at Night with a Part of the Complexion, and does not begin to appear again till next Day at Noon.

As to the Purity of Manners, which reigns in theſe happy Countries, I can only give thee ſome faint Sketches of it. Juſtice is every where ſo well obſerv'd, and the Publick Felicity ſo well founded, that they who are charged with the Care of both, have, for the Generality, little to do, and therefore in order to divert themſelves, are obliged to go into the Foreſts to exerciſe their Severity on Wild Beaſts, or elſe to the publick Theatres, in order to paſs Judgment on the Quality of a Performance, and on the Merit of the Actors and Actreſſes.

I muſt moreover tell thee, *Dear Ali*, every thing is ſo well regulated in this Kingdom, that they who hold the chief Poſts are not obliged to officiate, but ſatisfied with reaping the Emoluments and Honours thereof, put all the burdenſome Part of the Duty upon Subalterns, as thinking the Exerciſe of their Office too mean for their Dignity. Nothing is more common, than to ſee the Servants of a Vizier, a Cham and a Daruga, deciding abſolutely, as to Rewards and Puniſhments, and diſtributing Juſtice with an almoſt ſovereign Authority, while their Maſters mind nothing but their Dogs, their Horſes, their Buildings, and their Pleaſures.

Nay, the very *Imans* leave to their Inferiors, or ſome poor *Derviſhes* in tatter'd Crape, the Drudgery of explaining the Law, and giving Praiſe to the Supreme Governor of Heaven and Earth. Wouldſt thou believe that I have ſeen one of the chief of thoſe *Imans*, at a Ceremony where he was to rehearſe the Creed or Confeſſion of Faith, not able to get to the End of it, tho' he had a Prompter to whiſper it plainly in his Ear! Some pleaſant Droles at the breaking up of the Aſſembly, took it in their Heads to joke him, by ſaying what Pity it was that his Memory had betray'd him on this Occaſion, when it had help'd him to furniſh out ſo many fine Parts of Romances, and almoſt intire Tragedies! but the *Iman* anſwer'd ſcornfully, that he left thoſe Trifles to his Vicar and the People.

Oh! how many more ſuch Stories could I tell thee, but that I am not ſure whether I am awake! ſuch an extraordinary Sight may be but a Dream after all; as happened to thee when thou didſt imagine the Cherubims had placed thee on the Throne of the moſt High.

Adieu my Dear *Ali*, I ſhall now and then let thee know how I do. I begin to be tolerably eaſy, ſince I have intirely harden'd my Heart againſt the uneaſy Reflections of an unfortunate Amour, and ſince I have got over my Scruples as to the Article of our Law, which forbids Swines Fleſh and Wine. Farewel, I hope that the Apple of my Eyes will be one Day a Path to thy Feet, and that I may be permitted to kiſs the Fringe which has the Happineſs to touch them. *

P. S. My Letter not going off to Day as I expected, I open'd it again, to acquaint thee of a ridiculous Story that is current in this Country, and which I ſhould not mention to thee, if it had not Credit with a great many People. 'Tis given out, that the glorious and invincible *Thamas Kouli*, chief Kan and Vicar General of our ſublime Monarch, is an *European* by Extraction, and born of *Nazarene* Parents; not conſidering the Abſurdity and Self-contradiction of the Story, it being reported all at the ſame time, that he is a *Frenchman*, a *Fleming*, an *Engliſhman*, a *Scot*, an *Iriſhman*, and I know not what beſides.

If there is but a Family in any Part of *Europe* with a Name like *Coulican*, (by which they murder the true Name of our victorious Regent) and eſpecially if of this Family there is one Vagabond ſtrolling abroad, this is enough to make it immediately go down that this Mr. *Somebody*, who was thought to be loſt, muſt be the famous Conqueror of the *Turks*, the traiterous Race of the unworthy *Omar*. But how impertinent is this, which I even bluſh while I am repeating it! Can the *Nazarenes*, who in other Reſpects are ſo knowing, can they be ignorant that the Term *Kan*, which they make to be a Part of the Name of our Great General, is only uſed to expreſs a Dignity very much like that of *Marſhal*, only the *Marſhals* have not, like our *Kans*, Troops in their own Pay? Are thoſe *Nazarenes* ignorant, that according to our Religion, our Laws, and our Cuſtoms, no Foreigner, whether a *Proſelyte* or *not*, can be veſted with all the Authority and Power of our ſublime Sophi?

Nevertheleſs, if we conſider the various Opinions of the Infidels about the Origine of the Great *Thamas Kouli* in another View, I think that they do him a great deal of Honour; for as heretofore the Elements diſputed about the Great Prophet Mahomet, ſo the ſeveral Nations of the Earth now diſpute and envy one another the Glory of being the Native Country of our matchleſs Conqueror.

May the Angel of Death never light upon the Pillow of this Deliverer of our dear Country, till *Haggial* has run his Finger through the Wall of Braſs 300,000 Leagues in Thickneſs, which ſeparates him from our World.

* *The Italian Singer of the King's Band of Muſick.*

* *The Perſian Language and Nation abound with ſuch fulſome Compliments.*

LONDON.

The Royal Palace at Kenſington not being ready for the Reception of her Majeſty and the reſt of the Royal Family, her Majeſty was Yeſterday pleaſed to defer her Removal from Kew to that Palace till To-morrow at Noon, when a General Council is ſummoned to be held.

Yeſterday Morning died, after a very ſhort Illneſs, at her Houſe in Ormond-ſtreet, Madam Lane, Relict of William Lane, Eſq; formerly an eminent Spaniſh Merchant of this City.

The ſame Morning, about 8 o'Clock, one of his Majeſty's Meſſengers arrived at Kew, from Holland, with a Confirmation of his Majeſty's being landed, as mentioned in our former.

On Sunday next the new-born Son of his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater is to be baptized at his Grace's Houſe in Cleveland-Row, St. James's

Yeſterday Morning the Lady Egerton, Wife of the Lord Biſhop of Hereford, lay very ill at his Houſe in Boulton-ſtreet.

His Excellency Baron Sparr, Envoy from the King of Sweden to this Court, is preparing to ſet out for Stockholm.

The Marſhal to the Admiralty is gone to Portſmouth, to bring up a Priſoner from on board his Majeſty's Ship the Louiſa, newly arrived from Lisbon, a late Mate to a Merchant Ship, he being charged with the Murder of the Maſter of the ſaid Ship on the high Seas.

Yeſterday Bank Stock was 148. India 175. South Sea 98 1-4th. Old Annuity 111 1-4th to 3-8ths. New ditto 111 1-8th to 1-4th. Three per Cent. Annuity 105. Emperor's Loan 117 1-8th. Royal Aſſurance 109. London-Aſſurance 14 3-8ths. York Buildings 2. African 13. India Bonds 61. 6 s. to 8 s. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 5 l. Premium. South Sea Bonds 5 l. 18 s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 7 l. 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s. Premium. Salt Tallies 4 to 6 1-4th Premium. Engliſh Copper 2 l. 3 s. Prem. Welſh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-half per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 115.

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N. B. *The Directions from the Author's Friend relating to the Frontiſpieces, and to an Anecdote in the Baron's third Volume, were received, and have been comply'd with.*

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By the Author of the Propoſals for the Revival of Chriſtianity.

Who is this that darkneth Counſel by Words without Knowledge Job xxxviii. 2.

—— Indignum! ſcelerato proſuit Ara. Ov. Metam.

Quo teneam vultus mutantem Protea nodo? Hor.

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